NY Review 5/3/79

Dear Howard 4/21/79

Dan Moldea's attached letter to the NY Review came in today's mail.

To now I have considered Moldea merely irresponsible, particularly after his "explanation" following my letter to you: that the irresponsibility was not his, he being only the author, but what that of his trusted researcher, Mike Ewing.

There was no need for Moldea to magnify his dishonest by writing this kind of misleading letter to the editor.

He knew after speaking to me of the baselessness of his cheap sensationalism, the kind of low pitch to sell a book over which nobody can sue - and can sell books.

So why does he doe it?

I see no reason consistent with personal or journalistic integrity.

The idea was not Moldea's, as he "explains" and as anyone at all familiar with assassination mythologies and theoreticians knows.

He was not the first to publish it, either.

Even if he had been, his source/"researcher" was on the House committee's staff before the book was out.

There is more but knowing this little read his last sentence- a claim for personal creditaand defense of error and deception in the book itself.

The rest of the book may be sound. I don't know and won't waste time trying to find out. But if it is he has undermined it by leaving nothing of his or its integrity.

The idea itself is disinformational and serves spook purposes, to do which there need be no spook connection.

Maybe I'm a bit crusty but I don't regard the most subversive of crimes or official investigations of it as suitable for penny dreadfuls.

Sincerely,

Harold

know. But at the very least I would like my views to be rendered correctly and certain elementary courtesies in argument to be observed. I would also hope for your readers' sake that some day you will give them a more reasoned defense of SALT II than they can find in Mr. Kistiakowsky's ill-tempered outburst.

Richard Pipes

Frank B. Baird, Jr. Professor of History
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

HOFFA AND JFK

To the Editors:

Thank you for your recent review of my book, *The Hoffa Wars*, which was examined by Murray Kempton (February 22). However, allow me to correct one mistake that appeared in his analysis. Citing a brief portion of Chapter 7 of my book, Mr. Kempton erroneously states that I "borrowed" the passage describing Santos Trafficante's dramatic oath upon entering the ranks of the underworld from Ed Reid's book, *The Grim Reapers*. Although I do indeed cite Mr. Reid's work later on in the chapter, the particular passage about Mr. Trafficante was footnoted to Hank Messick's *Lansky* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1971), page 210.

Secondly, when Walter Sheridan, a former aide to Robert Kennedy, read my manuscript before publication, he warned me that I was leading with my chin by discussing the possible involvement of Mr. Trafficante, Jimmy Hoffa, and mobster Carlos Marcello in the assassination of President Kennedy. I could easily understand Mr. Sheridan's concern but knew that the information I had managed to uncover had not been dealt with by the Warren Commission. Since my book has come out, several reporters, including Jack Anderson, have indicated that my book "tipped off" investigators for the U.S. House Assassinations Committee about the possible Hoffa-Marcello conspiracy in the Kennedy murder.

Although I feel that I was completely responsible in my handling of this obviously sensational material which is now being taken seriously by the government as well as the press, I am at a loss when reviewers, like Mr. Kempton, indicate that this is one of the "fantasies" in my book. I simply hope that Mr. Kempton and those other reviewers who have written that I have "ruined an excellent book with the Kennedy assassination theory" remember where they heard it first when the House Assassinations Committee releases its final report this spring.

Dan E. Moldea

Washington, D.C.

MEMORIAL FOR F.W. DUPEE

To the Editors:

A memorial service for F.W. Dupee will be held at St. Paul's Chapel on the Columbia University campus, on April 18th, at 4 PM. His friends and colleagues are invited to attend.

Kenneth Koch
Edward Said
George Stade
Michael Wood

Department of English
Columbia University

CORRECTIONS

To the Editors:

In the March 8 issue I spoke of Roger Sale's *Fairy Tales and After* as "execrably proofread." I have since learned that the copy sent to me for review was one of the first printed, and that the errors I noted have been corrected in later printings. Readers should be assured that if they buy the book now it will be in good shape.

Alison Lurie

Ithaca, New York

The contributors' notes in the March 8 issue omitted to mention Mary McCarthy's recent books, including *The Mask of State: Watergate Portraits* and *The Seventeenth Degree*, and to say that her new novel *Cannibals and Missionaries* will be coming out in the fall.

Vaclav Havel's article in the March 22 issue should have been identified as translated from the Czech.

—the Editors